



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No. : 09/937,238  
Confirmation No. : 6232  
Applicant : **Mechteld G.M. RUTTEN**  
Filed : January 29, 2002  
Title : **EASY-OPEN PEEL SEAL FOR  
FLEXIBLE PACKAGE**  
Group Art Unit : 3727  
Examiner : Jes F. Pascua  
Customer No. : 28289

**DECLARATION OF JOOST VERMUË UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Joost Vermuë, hereby declare and state as follows:

1. I am the Packaging Technology Manager at Masterfoods Veghel B.V.
2. I manage the European packaging technology team for the innovation of cross-category packaging, including snack, pet and human food packaging.
3. I have no financial interest in this invention, and I am not an inventor thereof.

4. I have reviewed the prosecution of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/937,238, filed January 29, 2002 and entitled "Easy-Open Peel Seal for Flexible Package."

I have further reviewed the patents cited by the Patent Examiner during the prosecution of this application, including U.S. Patent Nos. 4,759,472 to Strenger and 4,964,515 to Heyden, and I believe that the package of flexible material, method of producing such a package and method for packaging a product, as set forth in the claims of Application No. 09/937,238, represent novel and improved packages, production methods and packaging methods that are distinguishable

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